42. (*Amended*) The apparatus in claim 40, wherein connection is a packet-based connection and the temporary RAN identifier is included in each connection packet, the apparatus further comprising:

means for routing connection packets through the RAN using the temporary RAN identifier incorporated in each connection packet.

43. (*Amended*) The apparatus in claim 40, wherein the radio access network includes a first node associated with a first geographical coverage area and a second node associated with a second geographical coverage area, the apparatus further comprising:

means for using the temporary identifier in packets corresponding to the established connection to direct those packets to the first node.

44. (*Amended*) The apparatus in claim 43, wherein the mobile terminal moving from the first coverage area to the second coverage area re-establishes the connection using the temporary RAN identifier.

45. (*Amended*) The apparatus in claim 44, wherein the temporary RAN identifier includes a node identifier corresponding to the node through which the connection was initially established and a mobile terminal identifier.

46. (*Amended*) The apparatus in claim 45, wherein the mobile terminal may employ the node identifier corresponding to the node through which the connection was initially established and the mobile terminal identifier when making initial contact in a new geographical coverage area.

47. (*Amended*) The apparatus only the mobile terminal identifier after making initial contact in the new geographical coverage area.

48. (*Amended*) The apparatus in claim 42, wherein the temporary RAN identifier includes a node identifier corresponding to the node through which the connection was initially established, the apparatus further comprising:

means for routing packets associated with the connection between the first and second nodes using a shortened temporary RAN identifier that lacks the node identifier.